



May 3, 2012

David Hayes
Deputy Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Secretary Hayes,

Since the beginning of the Brown administration, we have made significant headway in formulating a proposed project for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) that will meet the dual goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration. Thanks to our continued efforts together, we are on track to present a real and workable plan as part of the goals we have set for this year. That said there will be some workable delays in the release of the environmental documents.

From the outset, we have all agreed that science should drive the design of the project and our plans for its implementation. The fish and wildlife agencies are currently reviewing and responding to a substantially improved scientific analysis of habitat restoration, water flows, and other ecological measures to achieve regulatory standards of the federal Endangered Species Act and Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. As a result, we anticipate that we will soon be able to announce some significant adjustments in the overall program that will reflect our commitment to using the best science.

This should not interfere in any way with our preparations for a public announcement of the key elements of a framework for the proposed project with the Governor and Secretary Salazar in mid-to-late July. Unfortunately, it does mean we will not be ready to release public review drafts of BDCP and its environmental impact report/statement at the end of June.

I want to be sure you are aware of the progress we are making. We appreciate the continued cooperation of our federal partners and your efforts to ensure that the project continues to move forward, on time and on track.

Sincerely,

John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources

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